

UNESCO State of Ocean Report

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About UNESCO State of Ocean Report:

- The UNESCO 'State of the Ocean Report', initiated by the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO)** during the 2022 **United Nations** Ocean Conference, serves as an accessible overview of the ocean's current status.
- It supports the monitoring of the UN **Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)** and encourages actions towards a sustainable ocean future.
 - The inaugural 2022 edition featured insights from over 100 marine science experts across various fields including ocean acidification, pollution, and tsunami warning.
 - This report, and its subsequent annual editions released on **World Oceans Day (June 8)**, aligns with the seven outcomes of the **UN Ocean Decade**.
- **The key finding of the report**
 - **The upper 2,000 meters** of the oceans have experienced significant warming, with the rate increasing from 0.32 ± 0.03 watt per square meter (W/m^2) from 1960 to 2023 to 0.66 ± 0.10 W/m^2 in the last two decades.
 - **Oceans are absorbing about 90%** of the Earth's excess energy, causing increased deoxygenation and threatening marine ecosystems and human economies dependent on them.
 - **Ocean acidification** is on the rise globally, particularly in the open ocean, with a noted pH decline since the late 1980s; more comprehensive data from coastal areas is needed.

- **Sea levels** have risen consistently since 1993, necessitating improved monitoring systems at all scales.

There's growing interest in marine **carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) technologies**, but their ecological impacts and effectiveness remain uncertain.

Q1. What is a deep ocean mission?

The Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) is an ambitious Indian initiative to explore and harness the depths of the ocean. It is a five-year mission, approved by the Union Cabinet in 2021, with a budget of nearly ₹4,077 crore. The mission aims to develop technologies for deep-sea mining, manned submersibles, and underwater robotics, as well as for ocean climate change advisory services, deep-ocean survey and exploration, energy and freshwater from the ocean, and advanced marine stations for ocean biology.

Source: UNESCO's State of Ocean Report highlights key knowledge gaps in research & data on spiking oceanic warming

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/unesco-state-of-ocean-report/>

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